

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**14 December 2010**

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**Item 5 – Public Participation  
Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 – Car Parking Strategy (item 6)**

**Statement from Terry Parkinson, Salisbury**

I am very concerned to read in the Salisbury Journal that there is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday 14th December which includes among other options increasing car parking charges 100% for short stay parking by setting the minimum duration at two hours instead of the 1 hour that currently applies. This change penalises the lower paid and pensioners and is a retrograde step for retailers who will lose trade from those who only want to park briefly to go to 1 or 2 shops. Parking fees are rapidly reaching a level where they discourage frequent shopping trips in favour of planning to do fewer large shopping trips or using convenience stores where there is short parking with no fee. I see no reason to harmonise parking charges across Wiltshire as parking pressures vary at different locations. However, if this is a misguided attempt to force more drivers into the Park and Ride sites this will fail. The Park and Ride is a good concept for tourists wanting to spend a day in Salisbury or for those living outside who work in the city centre but it does not meet the needs of local residents wanting to get several bags of shopping into the boot of their car. For that, city centre car parks will always be needed.